[6th September 1928

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—" May I know from the hon. the Revenue Member whether the tank restoration scheme division has begun its work ? "

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—" I should like to have notice."

Repairs to the Mathalai Mannadikulam tank in Madura district

* 213 Q.—Mr. W. P. A. Soundarapandia Nadar : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Mathalai Mannadikulam tank in Mela-Gudaloor, Madura district, is in urgent need of repairs, and whether general repairs to the tank have not been carried out within the last twenty years ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the Collector of Madura is demanding contributions towards the repair of the said tank from the ayacutdars ; and whether the repairs are postponed on account of the non-payment of contribution by the ryots ;

(*c*) if so, why the Collector demands such contribution from the ryots ;

(*d*) whether the bund on either side of the existing sluice was cut open to see if the sluice is in a good condition and whether after such opening, it was washed away by floods ;

(*e*) whether the Tahsildar by beat of tom-tom in the village proclaimed that the ryots should close the above cut and whether the ryots have done the work ;

(*f*) whether the present Tahsildar has refused payment for the work done by the ryots although his predecessor has ordered that payment should be made for the work done by the ryots ; and

(*g*) whether the repairs to the tank will be carried out at least in the coming year ?

A.—(*a*) *to* (*g*) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer given to question No. 1767 on 16th March 1928. The Government have no information but have called for a report.

TRUTH ALONE TRIUMPHS

Reforms

Memoranda sent to the Simon Commission.

* 214 Q.—Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasayo : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of memoranda and memorials sent through the Local Government or Collectors of districts to the Simon Commission in the name of associations and societies ; and

(*b*) whether the Government have enquired into the existence and the standing of such institutions ?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) Non-official Associations and Societies are not required to send their memoranda or memorials either through the Collectors of districts or through the Local Government. No memoranda or memorials from non-official sources were received for transmission or sent through the Government to the Statutory Commission. In a few instances copies of such communications were received by the Government for information. The Government have made no enquiries about the

6th September 1928]

senders. The Government have no information as to whether any such communications were transmitted through District Collectors.

Associations of Government servants desiring to submit representations to the Statutory Commission are required to obtain the previous permission of the Government under which they are serving, but if permission is given, the communications go to the Commission direct and not through the Local Government or Collectors.

Sriman BISWANATHA DAS Mahasayo :—" In view of the answer given to clause (*b*) that in a few cases communications were received by the Government, may I enquire how many such cases there were and which institutions sent those communications ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" I want notice."

The hon. the President was about to proceed with the next item on the agenda of the day.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Several of us wish to put supplementary questions in connexion with question No. 214. At least we may be given ten minutes for putting supplementary questions."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Is it the wish of the House to proceed with this question for sometime more ? "

(Cries of ' yes ' ' yes '.)

Then supplementary questions were allowed.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" If Government servants were to send their memoranda, were they required to give an undertaking that they would not use confidential papers in the preparation of the memoranda."

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" The hon. Member has stated the case correctly."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" What is the value of a local Committee sitting and having a so-called access to confidential documents after every care is taken to prevent them from going before the Committee ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" I do not follow the hon. Member in the inference he suggests."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I know if these representations are meant merely for the purpose of placing the grievances of the Government servants, such as they may have, before the Simon Commission, or whether such associations are allowed to express their opinions on the question of further Reforms to this country ? " 12 noon.

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" There is no limitation, Sir."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I know if the Government exercise any control over the nature of the representations so far as further Reforms are concerned, or whether they merely act as post office and pass them on ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" They do not act even as post offices ; the representations go direct ; the Government exercises no control."

[6th September 1928

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I know whether there are any principles governing the Government in giving or withholding the previous permission asked for by the associations when they want to submit their memoranda to the Simon Commission ? "

*The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" As far as I recollect, the only condition is they must not divulge confidential documents."

Mr. BASHEER AHMAD SAYEED :—" May I know how many Government associations have applied for and been granted permission to submit their memoranda to the Simon Commission ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" I must ask for notice."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" May I enquire whether Government service associations may criticise the policy of the Government or may be safeguarded without being punished for expressing opinion on the present system of Government ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" The question has been answered."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Is it a fact that the Government first said that the officers were at liberty to send memoranda and that subsequently they told them that they need not send the memoranda ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" I am not aware of any such order."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a full list of the memorials and memoranda submitted to the Simon Commission through the Government ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" No, Sir, that is a matter for the Commission to decide."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" Will the Government be pleased to place on the table copies of memoranda and lists of associations that have submitted memoranda, in cases where the Government know, or in which the Government have given previous permission as has been admitted in the answer itself ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" No, Sir. The Government do not propose to do that. It is a matter for the Commission."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I know why the Government permit associations and permanent servants of the Government who can have no interest in the political future of the Government which they have got to serve, to submit memoranda to the Commission whose primary object is to recommend further political reforms to this country ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" I presume that the associations and Government servants consider that their interests, material interests, are involved."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I take it therefore that the permission to the associations is intended for the purpose of enabling these associations to represent to the Simon Commission that, in any future reforms, their interests ought not to be adversely affected ? "

6th September 1928]

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" The associations do not state the particular purpose for which they ask for permission."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" In view of the answer that was given to a supplementary question that these gentlemen have an interest in saying that their position should not be affected—with which I quite agree—I am asking whether the permission now being given or which has been already given to the associations to submit representations to the Simon Commission is confined to stating definitely that these gentlemen who form the members of the association of Government servants are of opinion that in any reforms which may be brought about in the political machinery of this country their interests ought not to be adversely affected and no more ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" No limitation."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I know why no such limitation was imposed ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" It was not thought necessary."

Secretariat

Communal representation in the Secretariat.

* 215 Q.—Khan Bahadur P. KHALIF-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the principle of communal representation is taken into consideration while making non-gazetted appointments in the Secretariat ; and

(b) whether it is a fact that in some of the departments of the Secretariat the number of Muhammadan Upper division clerks is 'nil' ?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

Mr. ABDUL HAMID KHAN :—" With reference to the answer to clause (b), may I know from the hon. the Revenue Member which are the departments in the Secretariat where the Muhammadan representation is nil ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" I must ask for notice."

Mr. ABDUL HAMID KHAN :—" May I enquire, if he is not aware at present in which Secretariat the Muhammadan representation is nil, whether he will try to know that and also influence the officers presiding over those departments to see that Muslims are given representation in those departments ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" It is stated that in some departments the number is nil ; I thought the hon. Member asked which were the particular departments. I must ask for notice to answer that question."

Mr. ABDUL HAMID KHAN :—" My question was whether the hon. the Revenue Member would try to find out in which department there was no representation and whether he would influence the officers presiding over those departments to see that representation was given to that community."